

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 06340 01 OF 02 130527Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /013 W
-----115747 130533Z /13
O 130506Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7018

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STADIS//////////

EA/J FOR PLATT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, UNU, JA
SUBJECT: UNU: AMBASSADOR'S LETTER TO SENATOR BYRD

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AMBASSADOR'S APRIL 7 LETTER TO
SENATOR BYRD RE UNU:

QUOTE: I APPRECIATED YOUR RESPONSE TO MY NOTE CONCERNING
THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY, IN WHICH YOU ENCLOSED
SENATOR INOUE'S LETTER ON THE SUBJECT. I UNDERSTAND
AND CAN SYMPATHIZE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT WITH THE ARGUMENTS
DAN PRESENTS FOR OUR NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE UNU. IT IS
A FACT THAT JAPAN SPENDS A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF ITS
NATIONAL WEALTH ON DEFENSE, RELYING RATHER ON ITS ALLIANCE
WITH THE UNITED STATES, THAT ITS OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT
ASSISTANCE (ODA) IS RELATIVELY LOW, AND THAT IT HAS NOT
DONE EVERYTHING IT COULD TO HELP REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA.

TO ROUND OUT THE PICTURE THOUGH, IT IS IMPORTANT TO LOOK
BEYOND SOME OF THOSE PERCENTAGES. JAPAN'S DEFENSE EXPEN-
DITURES, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE SMALL WHEN MEASURED AGAINST THE
COUNTRY'S GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT, BUT LARGE -- THE EIGHTH
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LARGEST IN THE WORLD -- IN ABSOLUTE TERMS. WE HAVE LONG
BELIEVED, AND I AM FIRMLY CONVINCED OF THIS, THAT A RELA-
TIVELY MODEST DEFENSE ROLE ON THE PART OF JAPAN -- IN
WHICH ITS OWN FORCES ARE STRUCTURED STRICTLY FOR DEFENSE
OF THE HOME ISLANDS WHILE IT RELIES UPON ITS MILITARY
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. FOR STRATEGIC DETERRENCE -- IS
THE APPROPRIATE ONE, FOR JAPAN, FOR EAST ASIA AND FOR

UNITED STATES SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE REGION. WE WANT JAPAN TO SPEND MORE, AND IT IS SPENDING MORE, TO HELP DEFRAY THE COST OF MAINTAINING OUR FORCES HERE AS WELL AS TO MODERNIZE AND UPGRADE ITS OWN. (INCIDENTALLY, I UNDERSTAND THE SUPPORT PROVIDED OUR FORCES BY JAPAN EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT PROVIDED BY ANY OTHER ALLY, INCLUDING WEST GERMANY.) BUT WE HAVE NOT URGED JAPAN TO UNDERTAKE REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES, AND IN MY VIEW IT CLEARLY WOULD NOT BE IN OUR INTEREST TO DO SO.

AS FOR ODA, I AGREE THAT JAPAN CAN AFFORD TO DO MORE, AND IT HAS PLANS TO DO MORE. THIS FISCAL YEAR THE ODA BUDGET WAS INCREASED 21 PERCENT. THIS IS ONE OF SEVERAL AREAS WE HAVE DISCUSSED IN CONNECTION WITH BOB STRAUSS' EFFORTS ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT, AND IS ONE IN WHICH I BELIEVE WE WILL SEE FURTHER PROGRESS. I EXPECT ODA TO AT LEAST DOUBLE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS, AND IT MAY COME CLOSE TO TRIPLING. IN ANY EVENT, THERE IS NO DOUBT BUT THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN THIS REGARD, AND WE ARE GOING TO SEE A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN JAPAN'S PERFORMANCE.

FINALLY, WITH RESPECT TO REFUGEES, THE FACT IS THAT WHILE OFFICIAL POLICY IS NOT TO ADMIT REFUGEES FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT IN JAPAN, THERE CERTAINLY IS NO DISPOSITION TO FORCE "TEMPORARY" REFUGEES TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. I LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WISH THE GOJ COULD ANNOUNCE A MORE GENEROUS OFFICIAL POLICY. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE ARE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS AT WORK HERE WHICH POSE SIGNIFICANT BARRIERS TO A MORE FORTHCOMING JAPANESE APPROACH. IN SHORT, JAPANESE TRADITION, NARROW LAND SPACE, AND HOMOGENOUS SOCIETY COMBINE TO INHIBIT THIS COUNTRY FROM WELCOMING THE DISPOSSESSED OF OTHER LANDS WITH OPEN ARMS AS THE UNITED STATES TAKES JUSTIFIABLE PRIDE IN DOING. WHAT JAPAN HAS DONE, HOWEVER, IS TO INCREASE MARKEDLY ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES FOR THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF AIDING REFUGEES FROM INDOCHINA. DURING THE COMING YEAR JAPAN WILL PROVIDE \$1.85 MILLION TO THE UNHCR.

JAPAN REMAINS A STRONG, COOPERATIVE AND SUPPORTIVE ALLY AND FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES. I SOMETIMES THINK THE IMPORTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY OF THAT RELATIONSHIP AND THE IMMENSE BENEFIT WE DERIVE FROM IT TEND TO BE OVERLOOKED IN OUR CONCENTRATION ON TRADE BALANCES OR RELATIVE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. IN TURN, THOSE PROBLEMS IN PARTICULAR AREAS OF THE RELATIONSHIP SOMETIMES AFFECT THE WAY WE LOOK AT OTHER SEPARATE ISSUES. IN MY OPINION, THAT IS WHAT HAS

HAPPENED WITH RESPECT TO THE UNU. JAPAN COULD CONTINUE TO TAKE CARE OF THE IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE UNU BY ITSELF; A \$10 MILLION CONTRIBUTION IS NOT PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS OF THE UNU'S TOTAL ENDOWMENT. IT IS AN IMPORTANT INCREMENT, HOWEVER. MOREOVER, AS A SYMBOL OF OUR SUPPORT FOR A WORTHWHILE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION AND THE JAPANESE INITIATIVE WHICH IT REPRESENTS, OUR ACTION COULD HAVE A CRUCIAL EFFECT ON THE DECISIONS OF OTHER DONORS. IF WE DON'T CONTRIBUTE, NOT MANY OTHER COUNTRIES ARE LIKELY TO, AND THE IDEA OF A UNU

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-- A GOOD ONE ON ITS MERITS -- WILL DIE. WITH IT COULD
WITHER THE GROWING INCLINATION ON THE PART OF JAPAN TO
TAKE A MORE ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL ROLE. IF THIS WERE TO
HAPPEN, THE WORLD COMMUNITY WOULD BE POORER, AND UNITED
STATES INTERESTS WOULD SUFFER. I HOPE YOU, DAN AND THE
SENATE AS A WHOLE WILL GIVE THIS APPROPRIATION THE SERIOUS
AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IT DESERVES. UNQUOTE.
MANSFIELD

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